

## FROM COSTA RICA'S CAPITAL

EXCITING RUMOR PENDING THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

The Rodriguez Party Said to Be About to Demand that President Soto Relinquish His Office.—The Rule of the Monarchs Is—Precautions Against Revolution.

SAN JOSE, Nov. 1.—There is great excitement at this capital. As many of the timid residents as have country residences are locking up their city houses and departing by train or horseback for such places of safety. A wild rumor has spread that the Rodriguezes, furious at inevitable defeat, are preparing to demand that President Soto relinquish his authority and Dr. Carlos Duran, one of the three Vice-Presidents, should take his place. Dr. Duran, although he does himself neutral, is plainly a Rodriguez man. There is hardly any probability of President Soto's compliance with this request. He has done all in his power to insure "fair play," and it seems rather ungrateful in the contentious spirits of the aggressive party to turn and thrust him at the last moment. Don José Joaquin Rodriguez is doubtless the very one who would disapprove of any such violence. He is a plain-mannered, mild-moderated gentleman, with a large and interesting family. He lives in a plain abode house diagonally opposite the Palacio de Justicia and in the same block where four correspondent lodges. He owns half a dozen cows, which are driven into the patio of his house every morning, and whose milk he sells to his friends—that is, what no one need for himself. He has another house out from the city a short distance. He is a man of quiet tastes and undoubted integrity. If by any chance he should come into power, his administration would be peaceful and without reproach. Equival to the other hand, represents progress.

One precautions are being taken against any revolutionary uprisings. Passing the old caravel on your way to the Post Office, if you chance to look into the barred windows, you will see canon mouths grinning at you in grim and startling proximity. The caravel forces are augmented, and there is hardly any danger of one following the example of Tomas Guardia, and riding in. These fashionables in a load of green hay, to capture the strongholds.

Rodriguez, despite his plain manners and simple dress, is a man of considerable benevolence. Passing his house this morning, I saw a lady standing in the doorway, with a child in her arms, and giving the breast to the infant. She was a long line of blind and half mendicants, who in turn called the blessings of all the saints in heaven.

El Diario has just published a *suelto* in favor of Soto Rodriguez. It is a remarkable screed. They deplore the existence of various institutions, which to them the most bigoted and fanatical of the nation's right and progress—such, for instance, as the institution of civil marriage, in the absence of which foreign and native women are obliged to marry as far as Colon or Panama to get married. One of the eight priests complain that Protestants have been buried in the churchyard of San José. This is all that was ever done, I do not know, since there are two Protestant burial grounds adjoining, and quite as handsome. Not quite, however, comparatively speaking, however, there is greater religious tolerance in Costa Rica than in any other of the Spanish-American countries. Priests are permitted in every way. Their pretty little chapel stands hewn in a carefully tended garden of roses and flowers, with a small arched entrance. Every day there is divine service at 11, and Sunday school following immediately. It is but two blocks from the great Catholic cathedral, in the same street, and not very far from the Bishop's palace.

The commission which was sent to Greytown and vicinity to investigate the closing of the last American Consulate by the Costa Rican company, as ordered by Nicaragua, without awaiting the concurrence of Costa Rica, has made no report. Both the Costa Rican and Cuban capitals are silent on the subject.

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JAMES P. SILO, Auctioneer.

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